

Message Text

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12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104450

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, IN, US

SUBJECT: LIBRARIES: LET'S OPEN ONE IN BANGALORE

REF: NEW DELHI 5962

LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

1. WE WELCOME YOUR PROPOSAL AND AGREE THAT THE TIME IS NOW RIPE TO TRY TO TACKLE THE LIBRARY PROBLEM IN A POSITIVE AND IMAGINATIVE FASHION. WE CONCUR IN YOUR OPENING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOI ON BANGALORE.

2. WE ARE NOT SURE HOW THE JOINT COMMISSION IDEA WOULD FIT, ESPECIALLY AS THE INDIANS ARE HARDLY LIKELY TO BE OPENING LIBRARIES IN THE U.S. STILL, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO EXPLORING THIS CONCEPT.

3. THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WE SEE IN MOVING AHEAD AND WE PUT THESE TO YOU FRANKLY SO THAT WE CAN AVOID LATER MISUNDERSTANDINGS:

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(A) THE FIRST RELATES TO FUNDING. BUDGET RESOURCES ARE

LIMITED AND NO MONEY HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THE PROJECT (SEE USIA 21274 OF NOVEMBER 9, 1973). USIA BUDGET FOR FY '75 REMAINS UNCERTAIN AND SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS VOTED A CUT OF \$4.6 MILLION IN AGENCY

REQUEST. IN THIS SITUATION, USIA WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE UNABLE TO REPROGRAM FUNDS DURING FY'75 TO MEET COSTS OF BANGALORE LIBRARY. THEREFORE, IF LIBRARY IS TO BE OPENED, FUNDS WILL HAVE TO COME OUT OF USIS INDIA'S GOING-RATE.

(B) THE SECOND HAS TO DO WITH CONTROL OF THE LIBRARY'S OPERATIONS. WE ASSUME THE GOI WILL EXPECT THE LIBRARY TO BE HEADED BY AN INDIAN AND OPERATED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF ICCR, AS THE SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER IN KERALA NOW DOES. THIS POSES PROBLEMS FOR USIA, WHICH THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY HAS OPPOSED PLACING USIS OPERATIONS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR THIS ELSEWHERE IN USIS LIBRARIES ABROAD. USIA THEREFORE DOES NOT WANT TO END UP WITH A RESTRICTIVE ARRANGEMENT IN BANGALORE WHICH COULD SET A PRECEDENT TO PERMIT OTHER COUNTRIES TO SUPERVISE DIRECTLY LIBRARY OPERATIONS. USIA IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN EASTERN EUROPE, WHERE USIS PROGRAMS CURRENTLY ENJOY A DEGREE OF LATITUDE GREATER THAN CONTROL OVER A LIBRARY BY A GOI AGENCY LIKE ICCR WOULD PROVIDE.

4. THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSIONS TO BE POSITION THAT WE ARE WILLING TO OPEN LIBRARY IN BANGALORE UNDER FULL AUTHORITY OF USIS. ICCR COULD MONITOR PROGRAM, BUT WE WOULD CONTROL IT. HOPEFULLY, SOME MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ACCOMMODATION CAN BE WORKED OUT. ONE POSSIBLE APPROACH, AND HERE IS WHERE THE JOINT COMMISSION IDEA MAY BE APPROPRIATE, MIGHT BE TO SET UP SOME FORM OF BINATIONAL CENTER. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THIS AND OTHER OPTIONS FURTHER ONCE DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY AND YOU HAVE SOME IDEA HOW THE INDIANS REACT. -

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5. GOOD LUCK. RUSH

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